



BASIC MARINE GRADUATION
CEREMONY
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT
PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER, RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT

On behalf of the Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Eastern Recruiting Region, welcome to this morning's graduation ceremony. Marine Corps recruit training is a most difficult and demanding undertaking, one in which the best and brightest of America's youth are transformed into United States Marines. The training has physically and mentally challenged these Marines to the limits of their endurance. Success came only to those with strength of character, determination and strong values. Without your support, understanding and encouragement, their goal of becoming Marines might not have been realized. Thank you for that support and welcome to our Marine Corps family!

Those graduating today have earned their right to the title "United States Marine" through hard work, perseverance and personal sacrifice. Although the challenges they have undergone since reporting for training were great, those that lie ahead are even greater. Rest assured the skills they have learned, as well as our core values of honor, courage, and commitment, will serve them well. I am confident they will aggressively meet and overcome any challenge that will confront them in any clime and place.

I hope that you enjoy the remainder of your visit at Parris Island and will take the time to tour our Recruit Depot with your Marine. Please accept my best wishes for a happy and safe return home for both you and your Marine.



S. D. Hogg

Colonel, United States Marine Corps

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Invocation (**Please Rise**)

Sound Attention

Adjutants Call

March on of Troops

National Anthem (**Please Rise**)

Sound Off

Report - Publish the Order

Officers Center

Commanding Officer Remarks

Pass in Review

Introduction of Award Recipients

Retirement of Guidons

Honor Graduate Presentation

"Marines' Hymn" (**Please Rise**)

Final Dismissal

All visitors must remain behind the ropes during this ceremony to allow those seated to enjoy an unobstructed view of this impressive and long awaited event in your Marine's life.

AWARDS

Company Honor Graduate Award

This is awarded to one Marine in each company. The recipient of this award is one who demonstrates a high degree of discipline, proficiency, bearing and physical fitness and certain leadership traits that exemplify the highest standards of the United States Marine Corps. This Marine is presented with a plaque from the Navy League signifying that they are the honor graduate in their company.

Platoon Honor Graduate Award

The number one Marine of each platoon will receive a plaque from the Marine Corps Association and a Certificate of Commendation recognizing their superior performance as the honor graduate of their platoon.

Marksmanship Award

This award is presented to one Marine in each platoon who fires the highest score on the rifle range. Each high shooter will receive a high shooter certificate from the battalion commander stating that they are the high shooter of their platoon.

Physical Excellence Award

This is awarded to the one Marine in each platoon who demonstrates superior physical achievement, by attaining the highest score of 300 possible points on the Marine Corps' physical fitness test. Each Marine will receive a Physical Fitness Test Certificate from the battalion commander stating that they are the most physically fit Marine in their platoon.

Meritorious Promotion

Those Marines who have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency and have shown exceptional leadership capabilities may be meritoriously promoted to the rank of private first class or lance corporal. The Marines listed in this program with asterisks by their names have been meritoriously promoted to their present rank.

Marine

"Among all the honors, among all the postings, promotions, medals, that have been awarded me, the one in which I take most pride is to be able to say - I am a Marine." (Gen John A. Lejeune, USMC)

We Make Marines



They come from all across the nation.
They are all different, yet they share a common desire –
to find their place in
the world's most elite
fighting force –

The United States Marine Corps



As they step off the bus onto the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, they stand on the edge of transformation. This is their trial by fire. This is where they prove the mettle of their hearts. This is where they earn the right to be called Marine. What follows on this arduous journey is the development of the mind, body, and spirit.





The Corps toughens the body through physical discipline, enhances the mind through academic achievement, and builds moral fiber by weaving our Core Values into training. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are basic values recruits must find within themselves to earn the title Marine. These are Core Values expected of every Marine... it is what America expects of her Marines. When their service is complete, they return to their communities, better citizens than when entrusted to the Corps.





Drill Instructors are the cornerstone in this transformation. Their methods are not reckless havoc, but disciplines perfected over more than 200 years of national service. Drill Instructors utilize close order drill, physical training, academics, water survival, close combat, marksmanship instruction, the Confidence Course, and the Crucible to help recruits complete the transformation.



The Marine Corps Recruit Training Process

"Now this is the law of the jungle – as old and as true as the sky; and the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf that shall break it must die... for the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

- Rudyard Kipling, Second Jungle Book

Like links in a chain, the phases of transformation lead from average citizen, to Marine, to leader of Marines. Marine Corps traditions link future successes to our proud legacy of past achievements.

The strength of the Marine lies in being part of the Corps. Every Marine knows in accomplishing the mission of winning America's battles, they must perform as a team. Throughout history, each individual Marine has understood Marines take care of Marines by always accomplishing the mission. Marines most value leadership as the bond between leader and led. We build our leaders on the concepts of: fairness, tolerance, knowledge, decisiveness, selflessness, and discipline. It is through application of these leadership principles that successes are made on and off the battlefield. It is through the idea of leading from the front, setting the example, and working to build leadership in others that we grow as a Corps. By accepting responsibility for our own actions and how that affects the Corps around us, we grow into a better, tighter band of brothers.



Recruiting

"I heartily wish we could raise men as fast as you equip ships."

- Lord St. Vincent



Making Marines would be impossible without the Marine Corps Recruiter. Recruiters are the first link in the chain from civilian to Marine. They are responsible for the procurement of qualified individuals in sufficient numbers to meet established personnel strength levels, officer and enlisted, of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve.

Recruiters carefully screen those seeking admittance into their beloved Corps, seeking out those qualities the Corps can enhance: solid character, moral standards, and time-honored values. Marine Corps Recruiters embrace and validate these qualities. Candidates are admitted after careful evaluation of their whole person and their potential for honorable service.

Recruiters are the recruits' first mentors in the transformation process, making our expectations clear. Candidates become poolees upon acceptance

into the delayed entry program.

The mentoring recruiter develops the ideas of total fitness – in mind, body, and spirit. An introduction to Core Values, physical conditioning, the Corps' history and tradition is critical during this period.



Recruit Training

"We must remember that one man is much the same as another, and that he is best who is trained in the severest school."

- Thucydides

Drill Instructors are the backbone of recruit training. Over the course of 12 weeks, their duty is to train and test the mettle of their recruits in the fires of stress and conflict, chaos, and uncertainty.



The Drill Instructors' recruits must be ready for future conflicts. The tests in recruit training will not be the hardest recruits will ever experience, but for most, it will be the first time they have tested the limits of their physical, mental and emotional endurance. Recruits will learn they are capable of more than they ever thought possible.



Cohesion



"Consider your Corps as your family; your commander as your father; your comrade as your brother; your inferior as a young relative. Then all will be happy and friendly and easy. Don't think

of yourself, think of your comrades; they will think of you. Perish yourself, but save the comrades."

- General Mikhail Ivanovich Dragomirov

Recruits learn a sense of belonging within their platoons and squads and expect this camaraderie in their ensuing time in the Corps. Leaders on every level strive to instill and reinforce this sense of belonging.



Once a Marine, always a Marine. From the time recruits earn their Eagle, Globe and Anchor, they

become part of a proud family. Recruit training is our rite of passage and a symbol of who we are. The youngest graduating recruit, and

the oldest veteran who measures his or her service in decades, share a common passion for the Corps as something more than a service – it is a proud family with a proud history.



Sustainment



"Neither money nor machines can serve as a substitute for our fighting men. We cannot buy justice or freedom. We cannot manufacture them. And wanting them, we have got to be willing to fight for them – without a selfish thought of our own personal convenience. This is what we must ask, first of ourselves and then our children."

- General David M. Shoup

Sustainment training is continuous throughout our lives in the Corps. It is a continuous evolution whereby leaders strengthen core values, cohesion and the sense of mission and service that characterize Marines. We make a significant investment in each Marine; and we need to keep the best of them.



Citizenship

"It's a funny thing, but as years go by, I think you appreciate more and more what a great thing it was to be a U.S. Marine. I certainly can't say that I was happy every minute I was on active duty ... people will tell me what a shame it was I had to go back in the service the second time, but now I'm kinda glad I did ... besides, I am a U.S. Marine and I'll be one till I die."

- Ted Williams

The Marine Corps endeavors to send America's sons and daughters home better citizens than when first entrusted to us. Whether a Marine returns home after a single enlistment in the Marine Corps or retires after decades of service, they return to their communities with the tools to be

first class citizens. For those who choose to leave active duty, transition assistance is provided, emphasizing our commitment to taking care of our Marines. We accentuate the value of honorable service, as it emphasizes that character and personal conduct **ARE** important. Our Marines are forever a part of the Corps and they step out into citizenship with unlimited futures.



U.S. Marine Corps

Core Values

Generation after generation of American men and women have given special meaning to the title United States Marine. These same men and women live by a set of enduring Core Values which forms the bedrock of their character. Core Values give Marines strength and help tune their behavior; they bond the Marine Corps into a total force that can meet any challenge.



HONOR

Honor guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior; to never lie, cheat or steal; to abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; respect human dignity and respect others. The qualities of maturity, dedication, trust and dependability commits Marines to act responsibly; to be accountable for their actions; to fulfill their obligations; and to hold others accountable for their actions.



COURAGE

Courage is the mental, moral and physical strength ingrained in Marines. It carries them through the challenges of combat and helps them overcome fear. It is the inner strength that enables a Marine to do what is right; to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct; and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure.



COMMITMENT

Commitment is the spirit of determination and dedication found in Marines. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. It is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and country. It inspires the unrelenting determination to achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor.